

**Developmental Disabilities Council  
Membership Committee  
Minutes  
November 15, 2007**

Present

Larry Garman (Committee Chair), Vickie Foster, Suzanne Gries, Mike Hatch, Becky Laskey, Joy Pendergrass, Amber Blevins

Absent

Alicia McRae

Staff

Linda Walling, Eva Rooks

Call to order

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made. Two new members joined the workgroup: Amber and Joy.

Adjustments to the Agenda

The agenda was adjusted to include discussion of the September meeting.

## Minutes

Mike moved and Vickie seconded to approve the September minutes. It was noted that the minutes said July instead of September. An adjustment was made to change the date of the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.

## New Member Orientation

Larry asked the new members how they liked the orientation, noting that this is the first time that the Council has held the orientation at the breakfast hour for new members. Joy and Amber stated that they found the orientation helpful.

## Agency Representative Reports

In the past there has been little guidance for agency representatives both in how agency representatives are selected and what they will cover during the presentation. There has been some interest in providing some guidance to these representatives about the specific areas that may be most of interest to council members. Some committee members voiced support of how presentations are made now, noting that this is an opportunity to learn more about what an agency is doing, even if it is not specifically geared to DD issues.

Larry suggested that an outline or a time frame may help to keep people more on track. It was also noted that putting the hand-outs on a back table instead of distributing may reduce the time, clutter and confusion which may occur when agency representatives are speaking. It was noted that this topic area may be more suitable to governance. It was suggested that the committee provide an outline of their discussion to the governance committee and let them follow up on the presentation part of this issue.

### Interview Questions

The committee reviewed the interview questions and revised them to make them clearer. New members were able to provide a fresh perspective of how the questions were interpreted when they had their interviews and whether each question was easy to understand.

### Development Day

Larry and Eva were investigating possible ideas for workshop activities during development day. Eva reported that when she did follow up work on her activity it didn't seem like it would be a beneficial activity for the council members after all. Linda was asked to do follow up work in investigating whether

Jim Corey would be able to do a presentation on chaos theory. Suzanne also suggested an activity that she participated in where stickers are put on a luggage tag and you met with people in the group and talked about a vacation you would like to take or had taken. She thought it might be a nice icebreaking activity for Development Day. Linda was going to further research on this idea as well.

The Development Day will be held in Wenatchee, so the membership activity is going to try and host an evening where people interested in DD issues can express their concerns on these issues and learn more about the Council. The hope is that this will be a way of attracting new members. Harris and Smith and council members in the area were identified as sources of expertise in contacting people in the area and getting adequate publicity.

### Appreciation for Service

The group discussed how the Council can show appreciation to Council members leaving the council for their service. A plaque or some other type of memento was considered. Linda will follow up with prices or catalogs so the workgroup can determine what they will select.

## Council Member at Large

Ed Holen joined the committee to discuss the council member at large concept. He stated that these members are “in a learning mode” and do what a council member does without the voting rights. Individuals could do this for a length of time from one to two years. It could be kind of internship and would provide a ready pool of applicants for when council members are needed. Larry expressed concern over the cost of the program and how the council member would absorb the cost.

## Agency Representatives

Ed also discussed the need to clarify the role of the designee. Some state agency designees don't have adequate authority to speak on behalf of their agency and as a result agency members abstain from voting. In addition, representatives are selected that don't actually represent the parts of the agencies with whom the Council is required to have a designees.

Ed felt that the committee should look more closely at this issue.

As a result of the discussion, there was a request that staff request an org chart from each of the represented agencies, and check on whether the designees have full approval to act for the agency.

### September Meeting

Linda and Autumn visited the Vancouver Hilton which looked as if it would be a good choice for the September council meeting. Unfortunately, they don't have availability for our September council meeting dates. Linda checked to see if the following week was available, and airport transportation was provided, if the committee was willing to change the date. The consensus was yes. Bellingham was also brought up as an alternate location, if the Vancouver Hilton does not work out.

### Council Report

New member orientation

Agency representative reporting to Council

Reviewed/revised interview questions

Development day

At-large Council members

Appreciation for past members

## January's meeting agenda

Recruitment/Attendance Update

Jim Corey information

Luggage tag and plaque/paperweight information

Flyer for open house in Wenatchee

Eva update on powerpoint for website

Member at-large

With that the meeting was adjourned.